

## Message Text

SECRET

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 AID-05 IGA-01 SP-02 DODE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /039 W  
----- 031286

O R 230540Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4002

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 3627

DEPT PASS SECRETARY KISSINGER

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, LA, US

SUBJECT: AID AND USAID IN LAOS

REF: STATE 119972

1. CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS AT 10:00 A.M. MAY 23 BY  
CALL ON PRIME MINISTER. HAVE ALSO REQUESTED APPOINTMENT  
WITH MINFONAFF PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, WHO IS AT PRESENT  
ADDRESSING RALLY AT STADIUM. I TOLD SOUVANNA THAT IN  
LINE WITH THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WE HAD HAD WITH THE PGNU  
OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS, WASHINGTON HAD DECIDED TO CLOSE  
DOWN THE USAID MISSION AND TO WITHDRAW USAID PERSONNEL.  
HOWEVER, AS HE COULD APPRECIATE, THERE WOULD BE A GREAT  
MANY ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS IN ORDER TO AFFECT AN  
ORDERLY TRANSFER OF FACILITIES TO THE PGNU. FOR  
INSTANCE, TODAY IS PAYDAY FOR USAID EMPLOYEES AND WE  
HAD RECEIVED THREATENING NOTE THAT UNLESS WE EFFECTED  
PAYMENTS THE SIGNATORIES ("REPRESENTATIVE OF USAID  
EMPLOYEES; DEMOCRATIC CENTER FOR JUSTICE, AND PRESIDENT  
OF STUDENT FEDERATION KHANSAI) WOULD NOT GUARANTEE  
SECURITY OF PROPERTY AND LIVES OF USAID PERSONNEL. IT

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IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL THAT WE HAVE FREE ACCESS TO THE

COMPOUND IN ORDER THAT WE BE ABLE TO PAY THE EMPLOYEES,  
CLOSE DOWN THE OPERATION, AND EFFECT THE TRANSFER.  
SOUVANNA LOOKED SURPRISED THAT DEMONSTRATORS STILL HELD  
THE COMPOUND AS HE HAD GIVEN "ORDERS" YESTERDAY TO  
EVACUATE THE AREA.

2. I ALSO TOOK UP THE PROBLEM OF THE HOUSING COMPLEX  
AT DM 6 WHERE POLICE AND STUDENTS HAD PREVENTED ANYONE  
FROM ENTERING OR LEAVING SINCE 6:00 P.M. LAST NIGHT.  
I SAID THAT WE HAD A CONVOY OF UPWARDS OF 100 PERSONS  
PREPARED TO GO AT 11:00 THIS MORNING BUT THAT IF THEY  
WERE STOPPED, THEY WERE ORDERED TO RETURN TO THE COMPOUND.  
THEY WOULD, IN EFFECT, BE PRISONERS OF THE PGNU. I  
SAID THAT THIS WAS THE SITUATION DESPITE ASSURANCES  
AT 11:30 LAST NIGHT FROM MINFONAFF PHOUMI THAT HE WOULD  
GET IN TOUCH WITH RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL TO GIVE APPROPRIATE  
ORDERS TO PEOPLE GUARDING KM 6. SOUVANNA UNDERSTOOD  
THE IMPORT OF ALL THIS QUITE CLEARLY AND CUT THE  
INTERVIEW SHORT SAYING THAT HE WOULD TRY TO GET IN  
TOUCH WITH SOMEBODY ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT  
SINCE EVERYONE WAS AT THE STADIUM. HE CONCLUDED, HOW-  
EVER, IN TYPICAL FASHION THAT WE WERE PASSING THROUGH  
MOMENT OF CRISIS AFTER WHICH EVERYTHING WOULD BE  
ALL RIGHT.

3. I DID NOT RPT NOT INDICATE THAT WE WERE SUSPENDING  
AID PROGRAMS. COUNTRY TEAM IS UNANIMOUS THAT HOWEVER  
WORDED SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE VIEWED BY PGNU AS  
THREAT AND WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL AT THIS TRICKY TIME.  
WE ARE ADMINISTRATIVELY STOPPING ECONOMIC AID IN  
PIPELINE. MILITARY AID, CONSISTING OF RICE, SOME FUEL  
AND MEDICINE, ARE CONTINUING TO BE PROVIDED.  
CHAPMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY KISSINGER.

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, THREATS  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750521/aaaaasqe.tel  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
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